

REMARKS

This application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. The present amendment supplements the amendment filed January 26, 2006, which was entered but which was deemed not to place the application into condition for allowance.

The Advisory Action dated February 20, 2006 states that the amendment filed January 26, 2006 was successful in overcoming the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejection then outstanding, but did not overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Underlying the maintained rejection is the language "ratio of the surface size to the nitrogen absorption" present in both the narrative portion of the specification as well as claims 1 and 4.

The Examiner and counsel for applicants have discussed this matter, and based on such discussion, applicants now offer an amendment to both the specification and claims that should overcome the only outstanding rejection. In the amendments above, each instance of "ratio of the surface size to the nitrogen absorption" is replaced with "nitrogen adsorption specific surface area". This replacement language is believed to be industry-accepted terminology for the disclosed and recited characteristic of carbon black.

Moreover, applicants include herewith a verified translation of three pages of the Japanese priority application

that include the language in question. This reflects numbered paragraphs [243] through [253]. This translation corresponds directly to the passage from page 80, line 23 to page 83 line 21 of the substitute specification filed June 29, 2005 in the present application. Paragraphs [246] and [250] of the translation correspond to the particular paragraphs amended in the present specification.

By way of clarification, applicants note that the previous amendment filed January 6, 2006 was not entered. Accordingly, the present amendment to the specification is based on the substitute specification filed June 29, 2005, without subsequent amendment.

With such amendment to the present specification and claims, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

If the Examiner has any questions or requires further clarification of any of the above points, the Examiner may contact the undersigned attorney so that this application may continue to be expeditiously advanced.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional  
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert J. Patch', written over a horizontal line.

Robert J. Patch, Reg. No. 17,355  
745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

RJP/lk

Appendix:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- verified translation of three pages of the Japanese priority application